

Rymer, Edwina

From: Dorsey, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 11:28 AM
To: R6 6WQ-SG
Subject: FW: IOGCC State's First - Multi-state Report on Earthquakes
Attachments: 2015 Seismicity Report IOGCC.pdf

<http://newsok.com/article/5450013>

From: Honker, William

From: Gray, David
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:08 AM
To: Honker, William; Garcia, David
Subject: IOGCC State's First - Multi-state Report on Earthquakes

Regulatory groups release earthquake report

Energy and water regulators and researchers from more than a dozen states released a policy report Monday on understanding the links between energy production and triggered earthquakes.

by Paul Monies Published: September 28, 2015

Energy and water regulators and researchers from more than a dozen states released a policy report Monday on understanding the links between energy production and triggered earthquakes.

Photo - <p>The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Groundwater Protection Council hold a joint news conference Monday to discuss a multi-state report on earthquakes. From left: Michael Teague, Oklahoma secretary of energy and environment; Leslie Savage, assistant director for technical permitting, oil and gas division, Railroad Commission of Texas; Rex Buchanan, interim director, Kansas Geological Survey; Richard J. Simmers, chief of oil and gas resources management, Ohio Department of Natural Resources. [Photo by Doug Hoke, The Oklahoman]</p>

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Groundwater Protection Council hold a joint news conference Monday to discuss a multi-state report on earthquakes. From left: Michael Teague, Oklahoma secretary of energy and environment; Leslie Savage, assistant director for technical permitting, oil and gas division, Railroad Commission of Texas; Rex Buchanan, interim director, Kansas Geological Survey; Richard J. Simmers, chief of oil and gas resources management, Ohio Department of Natural Resources. [Photo by Doug Hoke, The Oklahoman]

The report, from the StatesFirst initiative organized by the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Ground Water Protection Council, surveys the latest research and policy options for regulators dealing with higher rates of earthquakes linked to wastewater disposal wells from energy production.

For Oklahoma residents, the issues aren't new. The state has had more than 670 earthquakes greater than magnitude 3.0 this year, surpassing the 585 earthquakes in that category for all of 2014.

Regulators at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission have instituted a “traffic light” system for permitting wastewater disposal wells in areas of increased seismicity. The commission also has directed operators to reduce volumes, cut disposal well depths or shut in some wells in counties across the state.

“In Oklahoma, we're way past potential for induced seismicity,” said Michael Teague, Oklahoma's secretary of energy and environment. “We're in the middle of this problem. But if you're a state like Idaho that doesn't have a whole lot of oil and gas activity, this is a helpful document. It's got all kinds of expertise: regulators, industry folks, researchers at the academic institutions.”

Amid concerns over induced seismicity, a handful of Oklahoma residents have petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to take over Oklahoma's regulation of the Class II wastewater disposal wells used in energy